

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Discussion of FDGB Constitution

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 8 May 1955

NO. OF PAGES 1

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

DATE ACQUIRED

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

BY CABLE

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF COUNTRY

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1. A tense atmosphere is said to prevail at present within the SED Politburo because of the draft constitution for the FDGB which is currently under discussion in all East German enterprises in preparation for its ratification at the fourth national congress of the FDGB. Herbert Warnke, chairman of the FDGB and candidate member of the Politburo, was responsible for the draft, which was discussed in the Politburo prior to publication. At that time Walter Ulbricht expressly demanded the inclusion of an article providing that every FDGB member must pledge himself "to defend the achievements of the workers' and peasants' state."
2. The Politburo is now embarrassed by this wording and would like to strike the article out of the draft. However, the article cannot be simply removed, since the discussions have been almost completed in all enterprises; indeed, the article is notorious because it gave rise to great opposition in the FDGB ranks.
3. At a recent discussion of this problem with Wilhelm Pieck, Otto Grotewohl, and Hermann Matern, Warnke was severely taken to task for his part in the matter.¹

1. Comment: Warnke's position is becoming increasingly difficult. Employees of the Politburo believe that he may soon be demoted or dismissed.

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